

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 06788 171002Z

42

ACTION AF-06

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USIA/IAA FOR DAWSON

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PASS AID, FAA, FAS/USDA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, PFOR, NI

SUBJECT: FMG REQUISITION OF EMBASSY ANNEX

REF: LAGOS 6633

1. ON MONDAY 14 JULY, ADMIN COUNSELOR PIPER MET WITH MEA DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL MGBOKWERE AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION (MINED) REPRESENTATIVES SMITH (CANADIAN) AND WACHUKU. AS MINED SCHEDULED TO OCCUPY MOLONEY STREET BUILDING FOLLOWING US EXIT, DISCUSSIONS CENTERED MAINLY ON TIMING AND COORDINATION OF MOVE.

2. PIPER DELIVERED FLOOR PLANS OF ANNEX BUILDING; ADVISED THAT ON PREVIOUS SATURDAY SEVERAL TRUCKLOADS OF (SURPLUS) FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM BUILDING (TO EMBASSY'S IGANMU WAREHOUSE); AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT REMAINING ISSUES OF ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONES, PLUS QUESTION OF RENT-FREE OPEN-ENDED USE OF OKOTIE EBOH PROPERTY AFTER INITIAL 18-MONTH PERIOD, COULD BE RESOLVED QUICKLY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT MOVEMENT FROM MOLONEY ANNEX COULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL FINAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED. MGBOKWERE ADVISED THAT NEPA WAS PRESENTLY WORKING

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 06788 171002Z

ON ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION AND CONTACT HAD BEEN MADE WITH P&T

OFFICIALS REGARDING TELEPHONES. NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WERE PROVIDED TO ENABLE EMBASSY MAKE DIRECT CONTACT. SUBJECT OF OPEN-ENDED RENT WAS CONVENIENTLY DUCKED.

3. BOTH MEA AND MINED WERE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY WAS IN PROGRESS AT MOLONEY STREET AND SAID THEY LOOKED FORWARD TO OCCUPYING FIRST FOUR FLOORS WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS. PIPER REMINDED MGBOKWERE THAT AMBASSADOR EASUM HAD TOLD MEA PERMSEC IYALLA (REFTEL, PARA 6A) THAT WITHIN THE TWO WEEK PERIOD "AID WOULD BEGIN UNDERLINE START END UNDERLINE MOVING TO APARTMENTS AT 14 ELSIE FEMI PEARSE," PROVIDED REMAINING ISSUES RESOLVED (PARA 2 ABOVE). IT WAS NOT INTENDED THAT MOVE WOULD BE COMPLETED IN THAT TIME. PIPER FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT EMBASSY'S CURRENT EFFORTS WERE CONCENTRATED ON RELOCATING FAMILIES RESIDING ELSIE FEMI PEARSE IN ORDER TO FREE SPACE INTO WHICH AID WOULD MOVE. REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH MINISTRIES APPEARED SHOCKED OVER NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES INCONVENIENCED BY MOVE AND ACCEPTED EXPLANATION.

4. MINED REPS ASKED WHETHER, SINCE THEY WERE CURRENTLY OCCUPYING MAIN BUILDING AT OKOTIE EBOH, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO COMMENCE MOVING INTO MOLONEY STREET AS AID VACATED EACH FLOOR. PIPER OBSERVED THAT WITH ONLY TWO ELEVATORS IT WOULD CREATE LESS CONFUSION FOR AID TO VACATE ENTIRE AREA BEFORE MINED MOVED IN; HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MOVE WOULD HAVE TO BE IN SEQUENCE (AID OUT, MINED IN, USIS OUT, ETC.) SINCE MAIN BUILDING AT OKOTIE EBOH, WHICH WAS SCHEDULED TO ACCOMMODATE CONSULAR SECTION, WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE RENOVATION AND REPAIR WHICH COULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL MINED WAS OUT.

5. MINED ASKED WHY EMBASSY HAD NOT STARTED TO OCCUPY BUILDINGS CURRENTLY VACANT AT OKOTIE EBOH. PIPER REPEATED EARLIER STATEMENT (PARA 2 ABOVE) AND EXPLAINED FURTHER THAT UNTIL POWER, PHONES, ETC. WERE AVAILABLE SO MISSION ELEMENTS COULD FUNCTION PROPERLY, WE COULD NOT COMMENCE THAT PART OF MOVE.

6. MINED ASKED WHEN IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO INSPECT THE MOLONEY STREET PROPERTY. PIPER AGREED TO MEET THEIR REPRESENTATIVES AT 1:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JULY 15, AND CONDUCT TOUR OF BUILDING. BY HAPPY COINCIDENCE, ON TUESDAY ARRIVAL AT MOLONEY STREET BUILDING ONE TRUCK-LOAD OF FURNITURE WAS JUST LEAVING AND DURING COURSE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 06788 171002Z

INSPECTION ANOTHER TRUCK ARRIVED AND WAS PARTIALLY LOADED ON DEPARTURE MINED REPS, WHO COMMENTED THAT TYE COULD REPORT TO SUPERIORS AND MEA THAT ACTIVE PROGRESS WAS UNDERWAY.
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